

William Raspberry was a fine man and a great Mississippian. He will be missed.

#### MAKE IT IN AMERICA

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every citizen deserves an equal opportunity to make it in America. Last week, I, along with Democratic Whip STENY HOYER and other members of the Democratic Caucus unveiled a plan to jump-start growth in the United States manufacturing industry and support job creation that we so desperately need.

My bill, the Advancing Innovative Manufacturing Act of 2012, makes investments to spur innovation and increase the competitiveness of American manufacturers.

In order for America to make it, we need to maintain the capacity to manufacture new and innovative products right here at home in America. The Make It In America agenda will do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I would say: Let all of us face and focus on our responsibility to America's business and press ahead to make it all in America.

#### NORTH KOREAN GULAGS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the privilege of meeting Shin Dong-hyuk, the only known defector to have escaped from one of the many concentration camps operated by the Communist government in North Korea.

He was born in the camp and faced starvation, torture, and brainwashing on a routine basis, which is described in the book, "Escape From Camp 14." On the same day, the authorities executed both his brother and his mother in front of him for attempting to plan an escape. He knew nothing of the outside world, only living day to day, doing whatever was needed to survive. Heartbreakingly, this included informing the guards when he heard about his family's escape plan. Years later, a new prisoner came to the camp from Pyongyang, and Shin began to learn about the outside world and then began to long to escape.

By some estimates, as many as 200,000 people are held in the brutal gulags like Shin. As we negotiate with the gangster government of North Korea over their nuclear weapons program, we cannot forget about these human rights atrocities perpetrated against millions of their own people.

□ 1230

#### TAX CUTS FOR MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge us to reclaim the security that middle class Americans have lost over the last decade.

Beginning in 2001, Republicans passed trillions of dollars in tax cuts, primarily benefiting the wealthiest Americans. We were told these tax cuts would unleash a torrent of job creation and economic growth. That was baloney. It failed miserably. The wealthiest Americans experienced unprecedented gains while middle class families saw their budgets shrink in tandem with rising poverty and the slowest rate of job creation in half a century.

Well, lesson learned. It's time to let the tax cuts for the wealthiest expire, but not at the expense of middle class families. It's time to extend, without delay or uncertainty, tax cuts for all families, for all income up to \$250,000. If we don't, it will be a disaster, and a tax hike will result for those middle class families.

Mr. Speaker, it's unacceptable, particularly when Republicans are holding these tax cuts hostage so that wealthy Americans can continue to reap the benefits of a broken system that hasn't worked to the advantage of most Americans and has exploded our deficit. Lesson learned.

Let's not let tax cuts expire for people whose income is up to \$250,000.

#### CONGRATULATING WARRINGTON-WARWICK LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Warrington-Warwick Little League softball team for their victory over Minersville on Saturday in the State championship game in Pennsylvania.

Our community can be proud to be represented by this group of young women as they compete for the regional title this week. As the father of three girls who are involved in our community, I understand the dedication required of the players and their families to achieve such a success.

The team will head to Bristol, Connecticut, today, where they will compete against State championships from nine other States for the title. Congratulations to Coach Bitting, Coach Corso, and Coach Ruscio, and players Stephanie Andreoli, Madison Bitting, Sophia Boggs, Meghan Bradley, Lauren and Nicole Corso, Lauren Crim, Alexandra DeLeon, Sabrina Dobron, Kaitlyn Hammond, Alexis McConomy, Madeline McShane, Giuliana Ruscio, and Cassie Underkofler.

Congratulations once again to everybody who took part in this historic run. We wish all the players and coaches and parents the best. I'm proud and honored to see a local team go so far.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF MORRO BAY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the city of Morro Bay in my congressional district on the central coast of California.

Last month, the city won the 2012 award for Excellence in Local Governance for coastal and ocean management from NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This award is for its groundbreaking work with other coastal communities in California, local fishermen, and the Nature Conservancy to preserve historic fishing activity and build long-term economic and environmental resiliency on California's central coast.

Working together, these partners realized that Morro Bay and other small fishing communities—our working waterfronts—needed to respond to the changing conditions of their fisheries. This effort has not been easy, to be sure; but Morro Bay's leaders, who have faced huge obstacles in their efforts to try new approaches to fisheries management, were determined to make this work. So it is great to see this recognition of their courage and their hard work to improve Morro Bay's leading industry.

Again, I congratulate the city of Morro Bay and its innovative partners for earning this acknowledgement.

#### THANKING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS IN AMERICA

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to all those small business owners across America who have used their ingenuity, hard work, and tireless effort at great financial risk to build a business from the ground up.

Americans know that jobs aren't created by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. We know that our country's greatest innovators succeed in our American free enterprise system because they pour their hearts and souls into their dreams, overcoming each obstacle placed in their way.

In our current economy, Congress should be doing everything it can to minimize the burdens on these entrepreneurs; yet, day by day, new regulations, mandates, and taxes pile up and make it that much harder for these innovators to succeed and harder for them to create good jobs and grow the economy.